(2) श्रेणीकरण/प्रसंस्करण केन्द्रों, नीलामी प्लेटफार्म, पक्कवन/क्योरिंग चेम्बरों और गुणवत्ता परीक्षण उपकरणों की स्थापना के लिए सुलभ-ऋणों का प्रावधान;

(3) विशिष्टिकृत परिवहन इकाईयों की खरीद, पूर्व प्रशीतन/शीतागार सुविधाओं की स्थापना, एकीकृत फ्लोत्तर हैंडलिंग प्रणालियों (पैक हाउसेज) जैसी बुनियादी सुविधाओं के विकास के लिए निर्यातकों/उत्पादकों/सहकारी समितियों को वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराना;

(4) उन्नत पैकेजिंग, गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण के सुदृढ़ीकरण और प्रसंस्करण इकाईयों के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना।

(5) विदेशी बाजारों में उत्पादों, विशेषकर आमों की ग्राह्यता में सुधार लाने के लिए वाष्प ताप अभिक्रिया सुविधाओं की संस्थापना;

(6) चुनिन्दा ताजी सब्जियों और फलों के निर्यात के लिए हवाई भाड़ा इमदाद की मंजूरी;

(7) क्रेता-विक्रेता बैठकों और प्रमुख अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मेलों और प्रदर्शनियों में सहभागिता जैसे संवर्द्धनात्मक अभियानों की व्यवस्था करना;

(8) ताजे फलों और सब्जियों जैसी नष्ट होने वाली मदों के निर्यात के संचालन के लिए विभिन्न अंतराष्ट्रीय विमान व पत्तनों पर एकीकृत कार्गो संचालन और शीतागारों की व्यवस्था करना;

(9) बाजार सूचना के प्रभार तथा डाटा बेस के विकास में सहायता देना।

Assistance by Tobacco Board

4311. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers in West Godavari district who have availed of assistance from the Tobacco Board through the District Collector in 1998-99;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Tobacco Board has outlined some such scheme for extending financial assistance to farmers who suffered crop failure or pest attacks in last crop;

(c) whether the Tobacco Board has interacted with the district authorities in West Godavari recently on this matter; and

(d) the details of results and benefits extended to farmers in West Godavari district by the Tobacco Board through the district authorities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Tobacco Board has not provided any assistance to any of the farmers in the West Godavari district through the District Collector in 1998-99.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal emerging from the interaction with the district authorities in West Godavari to extend benefits to the farmers from the Tobacco Board through the district authorities.

Impact of Glut of Tea in International Market

4312. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a glut of tea in the international market;

(b) how this would affect Indian exports;

(c) whether the Indian consumer would get tea at lower prices;

(d) whether the Tea Board has any policy to offer Indian consumer tea at reasonable price; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Estimated global production of tea and its demand in the international market have been evenly balanced in the recent years as would be evident from the following data:—

(In Mn. Kg.)

Year	Global Production	Global Demand
1995	2570.75	2510.90
1996	2665.46	2590.70
1997	2700.04	2625.90

Despite slight increase in global production of tea and competition from countries like Sri Lanka, Kenya etc. exports of tea from India have registered an increase of 42.72 million kgs. during 1997-98 as compared to the previous year. During April-May, 1998 exports of tea from India are estimated at 22.57 million kgs. valued at Rs. 247.36 crores as compared to 24.96 million kgs. valued at Rs. 197.71 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) to (e) Prices of tea like any other commodity depend on demand and supply